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Date: Monday, April 23, 2007

To: Examiner: ALLISON, Andrae S. Group Art Unit 2624

Firm/Company: United States Patent and Trademark Office

Fax Number: 571-273-8300

From: Robert J. Schneider, Reg. No. 27,383 Matter Number: 1715325

Serial No. U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/718,436 Extension: 3919  
Comments:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION ATTACHED.**

Robert J. Schneider

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U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/718,436  
Attorney Docket No. 1715325

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of: ) Examiner: ALLISON, Andrae S.  
Kaoru KUMAGAI et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2624  
Serial No.: 10/718,436 ) Confirmation No.: 9842  
Filing Date: November 20, 2003 )  
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**FILED VIA FACSIMILE TO 571-273-8300**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Greetings:

The following is filed in timely response to the Office Action mailed on January 22, 2007, wherein the Examiner:

1. Rejected Claim 1 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima, U.S. Patent No. 5,589,939, in view of Matsunaga, U.S. Patent No. 6,826,293.
2. Rejected Claim 3 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima, U.S. Patent No. 5,589,939, in view of Matsunaga, U.S. Patent No. 6,826,293, further in view of Gotoh, U.S. Patent No. 6,907,133.

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3. Found Claim 2 allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, but objected to claim 2 on grounds of being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in response.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.